

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

placing an order of at least one shop selected item with a shop, said at least one shop selected item comprising a purchasable item that a consumer relies on said shop to select from a group of mutually equivalent items without said consumer having to see and select said purchasable item; and

going to said shop and choosing at least one personally selected item, said at least one personally selected item comprising a purchasable item that a consumer does not rely on said shop to select.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said placing of said order comprises placing said order with home apparatus which is in communication with said shop via a communication link.

3. The method according to claim 2 and further comprising linking said home apparatus with a shop main computer.

4. The method according to claim 3 and further comprising linking said shop main computer with at least one of a shop entrance subsystem of said shop, a packing zone subsystem of a packing department of said shop, and a checkout counter point of said shop.

5. The method according to claim 2 and further comprising using said home apparatus as a notepad to create said order of said at least one shop selected item.

6. The method according to claim 2 and further comprising using said home apparatus as a notepad to create a list of said at least one personally selected item.

7. The method according to claim 2 and further comprising sending a message to said shop alerting said shop of an arrival time of said consumer.

8. The method according to claim 7 and further comprising preparing said order of said at least one shop selected item for pick-up by said consumer at said shop prior to said arrival of said consumer.

9. The method according to claim 8 and further comprising providing a separate bill for said at least one shop selected item.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein said going to said shop and choosing at least one personally selected item comprises arriving at said shop and interrogating an entrance subsystem to obtain a printed list of at least one of said at least one shop selected item and said at least one personally selected item.

11. The method according to claim 10 wherein said printed list comprises two groups of items, one group comprising items that the shop has prepared and another group comprising items that the consumer must select.

12. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising billing said consumer for at least one of said at least one shop selected item and said at least one personally selected item.

13. The method according to claim 12 and further comprising providing a release note with an identification code for said consumer to leave said shop with at least one of said at least one shop selected item and said at least one personally selected item.

14. The method according to claim 2 and further comprising sending shopping information from said shop to said home apparatus, said information comprising at least one of information concerning new products, prices and special discounts.

15. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising:

preparing said order of said at least one shop selected item for pick-up by said consumer at said shop; and

collecting said at least one shop selected item and said at least one personally selected item for purchase by said consumer.